

Janice K. Brewer Governor

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 10, 2010

The Honorable Ken Bennett Secretary of State 1700 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Senate Bill 1422 (petitions; post office box addresses)

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Today I signed Senate Bill 1422, which permits certain voters signing candidate nomination petitions to use post office addresses rather than actual residence addresses.

Arizona law has long required that voters must have a residence to register to vote and reside in a district in order to sign nomination petitions for candidates seeking office from the district. The Arizona Supreme Court recently held in *Jenkins v. Hale*, that a voter's signature on a nominating petition is not invalid as a matter of law if the voter provides a post office box address in the address portion of the signature line. However, in the event of a challenge, the burden is shifted to the candidate to show the voter resided in the district and was therefore qualified to sign the petition.

Senate Bill 1422 allows a voter to sign a nomination petition using a post office address only if the voter has no residence address assigned by an official governmental entity or the voter's address is protected under A.R.S. § 16-153. This law will greatly benefit many Native American voters, as well as law enforcement officials whose addresses are sealed for security purposes.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer

Governor

JKB/jk

CC:

The Honorable Robert Burns The Honorable Kirk Adams The Honorable Albert Hale State of Arizona Senate Forty-ninth Legislature Second Regular Session 2010

## **SENATE BILL 1422**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-314, 16-315, 16-321 AND 16-351, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PETITIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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